

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 INT-05 EB-07 OES-06 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 IGA-02 MMO-04 A-01 PER-03 /051 W

----- 033998

R 181130Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2402

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 2453

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EMIN, SU

SUBJECT: USGS ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 2296, (B) STATE 185593

1. DESPITE WHATEVER DISAPPOINTMENT MAY HAVE BEEN FELT OVER FUNDING PROBLEM, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY IS INTERPRETING OUR RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR USGS ASSISTANCE VERY POSITIVELY. MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO LOCAL MEDIA THAT USG RESPONSE WAS POSITIVE, AND IN AUG 8TH LETTER TO DCM FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MINISTER'S OFFICE MINISTER WAS DESCRIBED AS "ENTHUSIASTIC OF (SIC) THIS ENCOURAGING PROGRAM BETWEEN USGS AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT OF SUDAN". IN SECOND LETTER DATED AUG 11, WE WERE ASKED TO MEET WITH REPS OF GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF AGREEMENT.

2. CHARGE MET WITH DIRECTOR OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES DEPT., YOUSEF SULEIMAN, AND FIVE OF HIS AIDES AUG 16. DURING MEETING POINTS SET OUT IN REF B WERE REVIEWED CAREFULLY. CHARGE WAS TOLD THAT EMBASSY WOULD SOON BE RECEIVING LETTER WITH INFO REQUESTED PARA 3 REF B. DURING MEETING, HOWEVER, WE WERE ABLE TO GAIN SOME IDEA OF WHAT EXACTLY SUDAN WANTS. OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IS UPGRADING OF HUMAN RESOURCES WITHIN SUDAN PARTICULARLY IN SUCH AREAS AS MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS. PRESUMABLY THIS WILL INVOLVE SOME TRAINING ABROAD AS

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WELL AS IN SUDAN AND IMPROVEMENTS IN DEPARTMENT'S

LABORATORIES.

3. FOLLOWING WERE CITED AS SPECIFIC FIELDS WHERE USGS
HELP IS REQUIRED:

(A) EXECUTION OF INTEGRATED GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
PROGRAMS.

(B) STRENGTHENING CAPABILITIES OF DEPARTMENT'S
PERSONNEL, METHODS AND EQUIPMENT.

(C) EMPLOYMENT OF SELECTED USGS SPECIALISTS, BOTH
LONG AND SHORT TERM, E.G. IN CHEMICAL LABORATORIES.
MAJOR GOAL IS TO STOP DOING ANALYSES OVERSEAS AND TO DO
IT HERE.

(D) GEOLOGICAL MAPPING OF SUDAN FROM REMOTE (SATELLITE)
SENSING AND DEVELOPING PHOTO INTERPRETATION CAPABILITY.

(E) DEVELOPING OTHER CAPABILITIES IN FOLLOWING
ANALYTICAL AREAS; CHEMICAL, GEOCHEMICAL, OPTICAL, THIN
SECTION, ORE DRESSING, SAMPLE PROCESSING, CO
ANALYSIS,
GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING AND WATER.

4. CHARGE REMINED OFFICIALS AT AUG 16 MEETING OF USGS
INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH SUDAN BUT THAT USG COULD NOT
PROVIDE FUNDING. SULEIMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SENIOR
LEVELS OF GOS WERE WORKING ON THIS, AND HE EXPRESSED
SOME CONFIDENCE THAT MATTER COULD BE RESOLVED. SEVERAL
QUESTIONS WERE RAISED REGARDING MECHANICS OF REIMBURSEMENT.
CHARGE DESCRIBED TRUST FUND APPROACH USED ELSEWHERE.

5. COMMENT: WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY IS MOVING FORWARD RELATIVELY RAPIDLY ON USGS
PROJECT. CLEARLY, HE IS ATTACHING HIGH IMPORTANCE TO
PROJECT, AND, INDEED, MINERALS DEVELOPMENT IN SUDAN IS
ONE OF KEYS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY. FYI
EMBASSY WILL BE POUCHING WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AN AIRGRAM
PROVIDING OVERVIEW OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE MINERALS
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ACTIVITY IN SUDAN. END FYI. GOS OFFICIALS APPEAR TO
UNDERSTAND THEIR NEED TO FIND SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR USGS
PROJECT, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOT FULLY REALIZE WHAT TOTAL
COSTS WILL BE. THIS, OF COURSE, WILL DEPEND ON EXACT SCOPE
OF PROJECT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LETTER GOS SENDS EMBASSY
WILL BE ACCOMPANIED WITH REQUEST THAT SOMEONE FROM USGS
VISIT KHARTOUM FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS HERE.
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS STRESSED

THAT EMBASSY TAKE NO ACTION (I.E., ON BASIS OF AUG 16
MEETING) UNTIL LETTER ACTUALLY RECEIVED. EMBASSY WILL
PROVIDE TEXT OF LETTER BY CABLE AS SOON AS WE GET IT.
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